responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support, where necessary. For this purpose a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ration of 3:1.

The State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully authorized under the Scheme of CRF to operate the Fund as per the items and norms of assistance approved by the Government of India. In the event of calamity of a severe nature, in which the requirement of funds for relief operations is beyond the funds available in the State CRF account, additional Central assistance is also considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure.

Details of allocation and release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and additional funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are as under:—

Rs. in crore

Year	Allocation under CRF	Central share	Center's share of CRF released	Released from NCCF
2007-08	204.48	153.36	153.36	0.00
2008-09 (as on 12th December, 2008)	210.63	157.97	78.985	300.00
TOTAL	415.11	311.33	232.345	300.00*

*Released on adhoc basis from NCCF.

As per the Scheme of CRF, Accountant General in charge of account of the State shall maintain accounts of the Fund in the normal course. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India would cause audit of CRF to be conducted every year in terms of purposes of the CRF Scheme. As per the information received from AG (A and E), Assam, State Government has reported the expenditure of Rs. 140.06 crore from the CRF account during the year 2007-08.

Granting Indian Citizenship to Afghan Hindus and Sikhs

946. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to grant Indian Citizenship to Afghan Hindus and Sikhs who came to India in distress;

(b) whether Government has decreased the twelve years normal stay limit to them for granting citizenship as a special case;

(c) whether Government has agreed to grant citizenship to all their children who were born in India;

(d) whether Government will give them multiple visa for visit to Afghanistan and other countries;

(e) whether Government will allow the Hindus and Sikhs living in Afghanistan to come and stay with their families who are living in India permanently; and

(f) whether they will get Indian visa for longer time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) In the year 2000, the policy relating to grant of Indian citizenship to Afghan nationals was reviewed and all Afghan nationals belonging to the Hindu and Sikh community have become eligible for Indian citizenship by naturalization under section 6(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Afghan women married to Indian citizens have also become eligible for Indian citizenship under section 5(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In terms of Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1955:—

(i) Every person born in India between 26.01.1950 to 30.06.1987 is a citizen of India;

(ii) Every person born in India between 01.07.1987 to 02.12.2004 is treated as citizen of India provided either of his/her parents is a citizen of India;

(iii) Every person born in India on or after 03.12.2004, is also a citizen of India provided both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India and the other is not an illegal migrant at the time of his birth.

(d) Afghan nationals of Hindu and Sikh community staying in India, who are registered with Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO's)/Foreigners Registration Officers (FRO's), are granted the facility of two re-entries in a year for a maximum period of 45 days each or one re-entry for a maximum period of 90 days for the purpose of (i) disposal of their property in Afghanistan, or (ii) to visit a country other than Afghanistan and Pakistan, if the request is found justified.

(e) and (f) Indian Missions abroad grant appropriate visas to Afghan nationals on their request after usual checks to visit their families who are living in India permanently. They are granted extension subject to the condition that their stay does not exceed three months in the country.

Stampede deaths at religious places

947. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many stampede deaths were reported from religious places in the last four years;